



Posted for Comment 1-2-2015
Comment Closes 1-11-2015
Send all comments to:
doralicia.rivera@glo.texas.gov

COUNTY OF GALVESTON

James Gentile

DIRECTOR OF HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Waiver Request #13

11/12/14

Background:

HOP Guidelines state that the "Subrecipient" must acquire and demolish the storm damaged property of HOP Applicants. The County of Galveston respectfully requests approval to *not* acquire the storm damaged property of HOP Applicant Ernest Lewis, Jr., Applicant # CG201296.

Mr. Lewis currently co-owns a lot in La Marque with Lee Anna Lewis, his aunt, and Earnest Lewis Sr., his father. Mr. Lewis, Jr. lives in his home on the back half of the lot, and Lee Anna Lewis lives in her home on the front half of the lot. Mr. Lewis, Jr. treats the back home and the back half of the lot as his separate property; Lee Anna Lewis treats the front home and the front half of the lot as her separate property. There is no evidence, however, that the lot was ever formally subdivided. The formal subdivision process, which will likely be necessary in order for the applicant to have clear title and meet the eligibility requirements specified in the HOP guidelines, will be expensive, time consuming, and may be impossible given the size of the lot. We have attached a letter indicating that, according to City of La Marque Development Code requirements, the lot is not sufficient in size to subdivide into two.

Further, HAP is not an option as Mr. Lewis, Jr.'s home is a non-conforming use and is not grandfathered in.

Waiver Request:

It is respectfully requested that the requirement that the Galveston County acquire ownership of Mr. Lewis, Jr.'s storm-damaged property be waived, that Mr. Lewis, Jr. be allowed to participate in HOP relocation, and that Mr. Lewis Jr.'s co-owned interest in his storm-damaged property be transferred to a his aunt and/or his father rather than to the Galveston County.

Mr. Lewis Jr. will relinquish his ownership interest in the storm damaged property to Lee Anna Lewis and/or Mr. Lewis, Sr., and will relocate to an area of higher opportunity under the Homeowner Opportunity Program. Ms. Lewis, Mr. Lewis, Sr., and Mr. Lewis, Jr. will all grant to Galveston County all the necessary permissions to demolish the damaged property.

Thank you,

James Gentile